



the **CRUSHED HEAD** *and*
BRUISED HEEL

God, Man, and the Story of Redemption



Sulphur
Community
Church

INTRODUCTION



In the midst of the curse that was issued on what should have been the darkest day in human history, God provided what has become known as the first Gospel message. He promised a rescuer, a Savior, whose heel would be temporarily bruised as he delivered the fateful blow that would crush the head of the enemy serpent, Satan. All of Scripture tells the story of this rescue mission, and at the center of it all is the Savior Jesus Christ.

This guide contains 45 weeks of material with studies to complete on your own as well as directions on using the corresponding summaries in the Jesus Storybook Bible to provide additional understanding. The personal study material is designed to walk you through the **REAP** method of studying the Bible (Read - Examine - Apply - Pray). Either portion of the guide can be used to launch group conversations with your family, friends, or community groups.

The material for each week will be provided after our Sunday morning gatherings to allow you to dig deeper into God's Word during the week after having been equipped from the preaching of the Word on Sunday mornings. Our aim is clear: Sunday morning gatherings are not the climax of our week...they are the starting points from which we go into the world to make much of God by reflecting Jesus Christ. In order to reflect Jesus Christ most accurately, we must know him as he is revealed in the full counsel of God's Word. We must also know ourselves and heed the Holy Spirit's convictions of our sinful hearts. This guide will provide some initial questions to help in that regard, but keep in mind the Holy Spirit must be the one to work for any change to actually occur. We must also be doers of the word and not merely hearers. We have provided questions for application of Scripture, but again...be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading on how you should apply the teaching you receive from the Spirit during your personal study. With each section of study, we encourage you to pray through the passage and your application with expectation that God hears your prayers, expects your admiration and praise, cares for your struggles, and will draw near to you. You are encouraged to pray that God will exalt his name in your own heart and begin to bring change to your life and heart, bring clarity to chaos, and bring understanding to confusion through the time spent treasuring His Word.

Even if you know the sections of Scripture we will study together well, don't rush past what God has in store for you this year. For some, this will be the first time you will see the beauty of God's plan of salvation as it is recorded in all of Scripture and how He beautifully works all things together like only He can so that He would get the most glory. For others, it will be a great opportunity to rediscover the ways in which God is intimately involved in all of the details of life for His glory and our good. For all of us, may this year be one in which we treasure not only God's word, but the eternal Word that was in the beginning with God and was God: our rescuer Jesus Christ!

WEEK 1: THE STORY AND THE SONG



READ

sections multiple times and with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

Psalm 19

John 5: 30-47

EXAMINE

what you have read, reflecting and writing down some of the key verses that stuck out to you. Feel free to ask questions of the text and expect answers from Scripture. Keep in mind that God was speaking to a specific audience in a specific time whose culture and understanding may be radically different than yours.

How does the Psalmist describe the word of God in Psalm 19: 7-10?

What are the Word's effects on man?

What is the connection between the description of the Word of God in Psalm 19:7-10 and the Psalmist's prayer of surrender and purity in Psalm 19:12-14?

What does Jesus say about the Word of God in John 5:30-47?

WEEK 1: THE STORY AND THE SONG



APPLY *the timeless truths of Scripture to your own life. God's Word is alive and not only did it speak into the lives, culture, and struggles of its original audience, but it also speaks into your life, culture, and struggles today.*

What do the sky/heavens communicate to you about God?

What other aspects of creation declare the glory of God to you? Describe what they communicate to you about him?

How does your typical response to God's Word compare with David's response in Psalm 19:12-14? What is the proper response to God's Word?

Think of your favorite Old Testament story. How does this story point you to Jesus?

PRAY *through the passage and your application with expectation that God hears your prayers, expects your admiration and praise, cares for your struggles, and will draw near to you. Pray that God will exalt his name in your own heart and begin to bring change to your life and heart, bring clarity to chaos, and understanding to confusion through the time spent treasuring His Word.*

JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

Read and reflect on "The Story and the Song" (pages 12-17). If you're able, do so with your family or friends from your community group.

